

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND GLORIA MOLINA**

**November 29, 2011**

**COUNTY PLAN FOR 20 PERCENT REDUCTION TO IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE  
SERVICES (IHSS) SERVICE HOURS**

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program helps pay for services provided to eligible persons who are 65 years of age or over, or legally blind, or disabled adults and children, so they can remain safely in their own homes. IHSS is considered an alternative to out-of-home care such as nursing homes or board and care facilities.

Senate Bill 73 mandates that in the event the State Budget revenue forecasts in December 2011 is less than \$87 billion, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) shall implement a 20 percent reduction in IHSS recipients total authorized monthly service hours effective January 1, 2012.

A plan to make the cuts effective January 1, 2012 will go into effect if the Department of Finance determines that additional revenue is projected to fall short by December 15, 2011 (for the remainder of the fiscal year). Under this plan, CDSS will centrally mail out the Notice of Action to consumers 15 days before the reduction becomes effective (i.e., December 15, 2011 for the cuts effective January 1, 2012).

Although this 20 percent cut is not subject to appeal, consumers can request an evaluation to be excluded from the cut by submitting the IHSS Supplemental Care application within 15 days of receiving the Notice of Action. The Notice of Action mailed by CDSS will include the IHSS Supplemental Care application. This determination to be excluded from the cut will be performed by the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) IHSS Social Workers, which will create a workload impact.

To date, State revenues are falling short and the planned cuts seem likely to be implemented by January 1, 2012.

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**MOTION**

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DPSS estimates that this trigger cut could impact the majority of the 184,000 individuals who currently receive IHSS benefits and the majority of the 140,039 providers here in Los Angeles County. DPSS estimates consumers will lose about 16 service hours on average.

The County of Los Angeles must ensure that a plan is in place to process consumers who will request/submit an IHSS Supplemental Care application to protect one of the most venerable populations in the County, the disabled and elderly.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT:**

1. Chief Executive Officer, to form a Task Force to include, but not be limited to, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Personal Assistance Services Council, to develop a coordinated strategy to outreach and process the anticipated high numbers of consumers who both request and submit an IHSS Supplemental Care application and who are eligible and do not apply.
2. The Task Force to develop a fact sheet on the cuts and a resource guide for providers and consumers on available services within the County.
3. The Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board of Supervisors with a comprehensive analysis on the budgetary impact of the cut to the County. The analysis should include anticipated impact to other County services or departments. In addition, examine the cost and other impacts on the County workload, which include tracking the number of calls received related to the 20 percent reduction notice, and the hours and overtime required to comply, documenting problems in reversing the programmed reductions in a timely way and any other relevant workload analysis.
4. Each of the Task Force departments to assign staff to respond to queries from the Board of Supervisors and make appropriate referrals.
5. County Counsel, in conjunction with the impacted County departments, to monitor any current or pending, litigation and report back to the Board of Supervisors no later than December 13, 2011, with an update on that litigation and a brief analysis as to whether the County of Los Angeles has a legal and/or factual basis for an amicus brief or other appropriate response.

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